

# Southern Standard

DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE, AND TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RESOURCES OF TENNESSEE.

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## Communications.

### Gossiping.

To the Standard.

Three powerful evils have been "set down" upon by public opinion of late, viz: dogs, whisky and idleness; and of all earthly powers public opinion is the most potent—in fact, all laws and their sources, and even the courts, fail to correct evils if not backed by the power of the people's will. Now let it turn with fierce determination upon that sneaking, most despicable and hardest to correct of all evils, and that is gossiping, which is in its varied and hateful form talking, meddling and slandering. Why, it's as common among church members and ladies, in some form or other, as elsewhere. Let's drive it from our midst! Oh, what a happy community where everybody attends to their own business!

### Daylight.

To the Standard.

The weather has been very fine for drying fruit, and as prices range high nearly all who have orchards have turned their attention to that business.

The overseers of the different roads in this part of the county have placed their roads in splendid condition.

Some sickness in this neighborhood. J. P. Allen, wife and mother, and John Webb, Frank Brown and Ed. Wheeler left for the Lone Star State last week.

James B. Kirby has gone to Illinois on business.

Rev. Elisha Webb is holding a protracted meeting at Hickory Grove. Elder Elijah Preston, of Woodbury, will begin a series of meetings at Pleasant Grove next Sunday.

E. N. Yager, in mercantile business at the stand recently vacated by J. W. Towles & Son, is having a splendid trade.

Sept. 3d.

### Dibrell.

To the Standard:

Mrs. Jane Hickey, of this county, died at her home August 30th, after a short illness. She fell quietly asleep to await the resurrection of the just. She leaves a husband and seven children, who justly deserve the sympathy of the neighborhood.

On the evening of August 31st, an infant of M. C. Jones died, aged about one month. May its parents fully realize that God has only taken it to a better land, a land of rest, to be forever associated with Christ and angels.

We are informed that Joel Holder lost a little boy about six years old a few days ago of fever. It seems that death is doing its work. May each of us be admonished that death is near at hand, and seek that preparation that will enable us to fall asleep in the arms of Him who said, "suffer little children to come unto me."

On the evening of the 1st, Mrs. Mollie Mitchell died at her home near Bindum's Mills. We greatly sympathize with the husband in his sad bereavement, and with his little orphan children.

P. G. P.

Dibrell, Sept. 3d.

Bardwell, Ballard County, Kentucky.

To the Standard.

As many are emigrating to this place from the mountains of Tennessee, and have been doing so for years, and as others doubtless are meditating such a removal, I have thought it not out of place to write another letter giving further information concerning this part of the State.

Emigrants should take into consideration other things as well as the rich land. Water and health are quite an item. That this country has very fertile land and great shipping facilities there is no question. That a man can make a fortune here in a few years by diligent application to a farm has been demonstrated by many. But let me give emigrants some items perhaps they

have not heard, a knowledge of which might save them much disappointment. Coming here one need not look for pure, cool springs gushing from the rocks as among the mountains. There is not a rock to be found, and no hills of any consequence. Such water as is found oozing from the banks is rarely fit to drink. It is blue or yellow, and has a horrible taste. The people do not pretend to use it. The wells afford some better water. The creeks are always muddy, and are almost dead water. One might watch the scum on it all day without having to follow it five yards. The people depend on cisterns for their supply of water.

This country has much river bottom margin, all of which at times is overflowed by the Mississippi and Ohio rivers. This country is certainly not healthy as higher ground. I've been unable to find any fair specimens of health among the natives since I have been here. Much medicine is taken, and much malarial sickness prevails.

Let me say to those coming here to rent that land is rented during the summer months, mostly in June, and that it is next to impossible to rent land in the fall.

The summers are witheringly hot, owing to the geographical position of the place. It is low ground compared with the country east or west. The winters are very cold for this latitude, and the soil during that time is wretchedly soft, there being no gravel to support it. The barbecue and bran dance are the favorite amusements. These meat-roasts are held all over the country almost every week in summer. Everybody attending is charged twenty-five cents for dinner. They are gotten up by parties for the money in them.

R. P. H.

### THE CRACK OF DOOM.

The Island of Java Overwhelmed by a Volcanic Earthquake.

Cablegram to Chicago Press.

LONDON, Aug. 28.—The late advices from Batavia, the capital of Java, show that the volcanic eruptions in that island are much more serious than at first indicated. The disturbance began on the island of Krakatoa in the Strait of Sunda, about fifteen miles off the coast of Java. The deep rumblings were distinctly audible at Satalerta and Batavia, about forty-five and twenty-two miles off, respectively. Little alarm was felt at first, but within a few hours showers of stones began to fall at Jogjakesta, Sourabaya and Samarang. All through the night showers of red-hot rocks and ashes fell, making complete darkness in all these towns. In Batavia there was an occasional fall, and it was difficult to keep the street lights burning in the European quarter. By the next morning all communications with Anjier was cut off, all the bridges having been destroyed by the descending rocks and ashes, and the road rendered impassable.

The eruptions began Saturday night. The next morning the disturbances had extended beneath the strait, the waters of which were soon boiling and hissing. Even as far away as Madura furious waves were lashed into mountains of foam. The rumblings became more and more distinct, and by noon Maha Merux and Gunning Gunter, the largest volcanoes in the world, were belching forth flames. Soon more than a third of the volcanoes on the island were in active eruption. About dusk Gunning Gunter began belching forth enormous streams of white acid sulphurous mud and lava. Enormous fragments of cinder were hurled high in the air, and carried death and destruction upon the villages below. Fifteen huge water-spouts were formed in the sea, and have been causing great damage ever since.

Men women and children rushed from their dwellings, but hundreds were unable to get out before their houses fell and were buried beneath

great masses of rocks and mud, which were soon piled upon the buildings. In the meantime huge boulders, at red or white heat, were hurled from Gunning's crater with terrific force, and after going hundreds of feet would fall with a terrific wurr, crushing thatched roofs, and killing the natives. Fishure after fishure soon appeared in the mountain, while in the valleys huge chasms yawned.

The forests in the northern part of the island were also fired by the red-hot vomitings from the craters, and the giants of the forests fell like sheaves of wheat. As the eruptions increased the waters of the sea were driven with awful force up the steep, rocky inclines, reaching the lava flow, cooling it, and forming masses of black, bright-red, purple and brown. The waves also came over the marshy plain, engulfing the hamlets of the fishermen and sweeping away every vestige of humanity.

All the plantations of rice, coffee, sugar and indigo were soon changed into ruins covered with mud, stone and lava. The destruction was complete and terrible. Not a crop in the island will be saved.

At the entrance to Batavia there was a large group of houses extending along the shore occupied by Chinamen. This portion of the city was swept away. There were 25,000 Chinamen living in this section and it is estimated that not more than 5,000 escaped with their lives. Of 3,500 Europeans and Americans in Batavia, perhaps 800 perished. At Anjier the European and American quarter was first overwhelmed by rocks, mud, and lava from the crater, and then water came up and swallowed the river, leaving nothing to mark the site and causing loss somewhere in the neighborhood of two hundred lives. At least 1,500 people were drowned in Anjier.

The island of Serang, just off the coast, was completely inundated, and not a soul remains on it to tell the tale of the disaster. At Cherribon the loss of life and property by the falling of the rocks and the flow of lava must have been enormous. Other islands suffered seriously.

No estimate can be formed of the loss of life, but the death list will foot up among the tens of thousands. It is now feared that the end of the disaster will show it to have been the most frightful ever known in the history of those terrible occurrences.

### Condition of Crops in Middle Tennessee.

Bedford—Recent rains have greatly improved cotton, millet and late corn; fruit crop falling off; turnips are being sown; considerable old corn on hand and farmers are feeding it to hogs liberally.

Cannon—Corn good; pastures good; stock of all kinds in good condition, more clover seed will be saved this year than ever before. A good rain needed.

Cheatham—Corn never better; pastures fine; tobacco good; cotton scarce; hogs plentiful and in good condition. Farmers preparing land for wheat.

Clay—Corn injured some by storms; fruit a failure; turnips just sown; stock in good condition.

Coffee—Corn good but late; oats fine; millet poor; sweet potatoes fine; meadows and all other grasses good.

Cumberland—Late rains have improved the condition of all kinds of crops; yield of grasses good.

Davidson—Late Irish potato crops will be short on account of deficiency in preparing land. Too much rain to keep crops clean.

De Kalb—Stock in good condition and bringing good prices; same average.

Dickson—Corn fine; stock in good condition; mule colts bring good prices; farmers plowing for wheat; pastures good.

Fentress—Corn very good; Irish potatoes rotting; sweet potatoes better

than last year; stock peas average; tobacco average.

Franklin—Corn, some crops good, others damaged fifty per cent; the same may be said of millet, and sorghum; hogs in good condition and cattle doing well but scarce.

Giles—Corn crop spotted; stock in good condition; hogs dying with cholera; cotton improved since late rain; plenty of old corn; strict hog law wanted; farmers preparing land for wheat.

Grundy—Recent rains have much improved vegetation; early corn assured and good prospects for late corn; pastures fine; more old corn in the county than ever known; farmers preparing for wheat sowing.

Hickman—Stock generally in good condition; hogs scarce; pastures excellent; hay damaged by wet weather; cotton growing too much; corn under an average.

Humphreys—Fine seasons and growing weather; hogs plentiful and in good condition; cattle scarce and high; the same may be said of horses and mules.

Jackson—Corn needing rain and will be light; pastures good; stock in good condition and commanding good prices.

Lawrence—The army worm has made its appearance; too much rain; crops improved with late rains; prospects for corn good; stock in good condition; old corn plentiful—enough to fatten the hogs on hand; some murrain in cattle and cholera among hogs.

Lewis—Corn not as good as last year; most extra heavy; crops damaged some by storms; stock in good condition and command good figures.

Lincoln—The average of cotton is about twenty-five per cent. below that of last year, but ten per cent. better in condition; corn damaged by drouth; pastures good, stock in good condition.

Macon—Corn about an average, stock in good condition; fruits a failure; hogs plentiful and not much in demand.

Marshall—The late rains have brought out the late corn wonderfully, but owing to insects working on the roots it can't make a good yield; pastures good; stock in good condition.

Maury—Too much rain for cotton, melons and sweet potatoes; millet rather inferior; grapes rotting; stock peas fine; fruit falling off; farmers preparing, stubble land; corn will be an average crop.

Montgomery—Corn crop assured; plenty of hogs in the county; fruit a failure; pastures good; Irish potatoes below cost; tobacco improving; weather has been cold and wet; stock in good condition.

Moore—Corn below average; sorghum good; hogs plentiful and in good condition.

Overton—Weather fine; have an abundance of old corn and hogs to eat it; no market for corn at thirty cents per bushel; most good.

Perry—Pastures good; hogs plentiful; mules scarce; cattle in demand; sheep free from dogs; prospect for fine crops good.

Pickett—Corn reported a little under the average; tobacco average.

Putnam—Corn crop better than has been known for years; hogs plentiful; stock of all kinds in good condition; fruit a failure; sorghum about an average.

Robertson—Tobacco doing well; corn improving but will not average as much as last year.

Rutherford—Corn cultivated well is very fine; cotton full of forms, much better than last season; clover seed crop good; pastures good; Irish potatoes rotting in the fields; stock in good condition.

Smith—Hay crop secured; fruit a failure; pastures good; sorghum good, as is also millet.

Stewart—Late rains have improved crops considerably; tobacco "frenching;" hogs plentiful; potatoes never better.

Sumner—Corn average; farmers preparing land for wheat; fruit a failure; a large crop of late Irish potatoes

planted, pastures good; stock in good condition.

Trousdale—Corn short, but improving wonderfully; the grasses need rain; stock in good condition.

Van Buren—Corn fine; tobacco good; sweet potatoes are fine; turnips are up and look well.

Warren—Corn late and short; pastures good; hogs scarce; mules in demand; cattle ready sale; peaches are good but not a full yield; stock in good condition.

Wayne—Crops needing rain; stock in good condition.

White—Corn under the average, but improving; the same may be said of tobacco and sorghum; stock of all kinds in good condition; cabbage half crop; some sheep killed by dogs.

Williamson—Early corn assured; sorghum mills are running; stock of all kinds in good condition.

Wilson—Corn under the average; hogs dying with the cholera; sweet potatoes good; farmers preparing land for wheat.

### AVERAGE FOR JULY LAST.

Corn, 92; cotton, 92; tobacco, 90; sorghum, 94; millet, 96; Irish potatoes, 101; sweet potatoes, 97; apples, 67; peaches, 69; grapes, 92; berries, 97; melons, 87; garden products, 95; buckwheat, 95; peanuts, 92; stock peas, 102.

### REMARKS.

Drouth has seriously injured corn and other crops in East Tennessee. Crops in Middle and West Tennessee show an improved condition as compared with last month, but the low condition of those in East Tennessee reduces the average below that of July. Cotton in West Tennessee shows a marked improvement over last month, but rust, which is reported, may reduce the average condition before the crop can be gathered. The fruit crop shows a material falling off. Wheat, except in East Tennessee where it was fine, made only about half a crop.

A. J. McWHIRTER, Com.

### Top-Dressing Meadows.

Southern Industries.

Meadows that have been cut close should have frequent top-dressings of some stimulating manure. Grass cut short cannot assimilate as much sap as when left long, hence the roots, as well as the leaves, are restricted in growth, and cannot penetrate as deep or spread as far through the soil in search of nutriment. In every case where it is practicable meadows should, after haying, receive a top-dressing of bone-dust, ashes or some well decomposed barnyard manure, compost, or standard commercial fertilizer. Coarse manure is not suitable, as it is likely to smother young plants coming from seed, especially clover, for it takes but a very slight covering to smother young clover plants during hot weather. When stable manure is used it should be old and very fine and applied by some good manure spreader, such as Brown's Distributor or Kemp's Manure Spreader. The more common practice of most of our farmers is to turn the cattle and stock on their meadows after haying, and let them eat down the stubble still closer and take away every blade of the new growth as fast as it appears, which is a mistake much to be regretted. In wet seasons blue grass and red top may withstand such treatment for a season or two, but it is death to timothy, orchard grass, and similar coarse growing species. Meadows should not be fall pastured, at least not until a vigorous second growth of grass has appeared, and then not enough to lay the crowns of the plants bare by the approach of cold weather. If meadows are pastured late it should be followed with a liberal top-dressing of stable manure to act not only as a fertilizer, but as a protection to the crowns of the plants in winter. Hay and pasture are the foundation of our agricultural wealth, but it is only in the thickly settled dairy regions that the meadows and pastures are given anything like fair treatment, and even in these no expense is incurred beyond what is thought actually necessary to produce a good crop of hay and a fair growth of grass for pasturing stock.